



Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Water Quality District to Celebrate 20 Years with Open House

The public is invited to attend an open house celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District Thursday, Nov. 15, from 1 to 5 p.m. in Room 226 of the City-County Building, 316 North Park Ave.

The mission of the district is to preserve, protect, and improve water quality within district boundaries. Staff monitor water levels in more than 100 wells a month; conduct the Water Watchers program for fourth and fifth grade students in Helena, East Helena, and the Helena Valley; sample private wells and help residents protect their water quality; conduct stream restoration projects; and carry out groundwater investigations throughout the area.

Lewis and Clark County established the first local water quality protection district in Montana in 1992. Other local districts soon followed in Missoula, Gallatin and Silver Bow counties.

The local district was created in response to public concern about water pollution from sources such as storm water runoff, leaking underground storage tanks, diesel releases and spills, injection wells, sewage lagoons, and landfills. The impacts of mining, agriculture and industrial activities were also identified as topics of concern.

District staff have worked in partnership with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, U.S. Geological Survey, Lewis and Clark Conservation District, Upper Tenmile Watershed Group, and Lake Helena Watershed Group to characterize the nature and extent of area water resources.

“For the last 20 years we have provided water resource education to students and information and assistance to local city and county residents who depend on good-quality water for drinking, irrigation, agriculture, business, and industry,” said Jim Wilbur, district coordinator. “We look forward to continuing to serve residents’ needs for clean water in the future.”

District staff will be on hand during the open house to share past, current, and future water-quality-related activities and to answer questions for the public. Refreshments will be served.

To learn more about the district, call 457-8927 or visit www.LewisandClarkHealth.org, and click on Water Quality District in the left-hand menu.